

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A passport transaction apparatus connected to a <sup>Sub P1</sup> ~~resident's~~ <sup>residents</sup> database storing therein identification data of the residents and also connected to a center which executes an examination for issuance of passports through a communication line, said apparatus comprising:

a communication unit for communicating with said center;

an image input unit for inputting an image of the applicant for a passport;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for the passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for the application according to the procedure for passport transaction displayed on said display unit;

a sign input unit for inputting a sign of the applicant; and

a control section for transmitting the data inputted by each of said input units to said center by using said communication unit and <sup>orchestrating</sup> ~~orchestrates~~ said center so as to <sup>for</sup> determine whether the applied passport is to be issued or not based on the identification data for the applicant which has been recorded in said resident database and on each of the transmitted input data.

2. A passport transaction apparatus connected through a communication line to a center which executes an examination for issuance of passports as well as to a ~~resident's~~ <sup>residents</sup> database which stores identification data of residents for providing services for issuing passports to applicants, said apparatus comprising:

a communication unit for communicating with said center and with said ~~resident's~~ <sup>residents</sup> database;

an image input unit for inputting an image of an applicant for ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> passport;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for the passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for the application according to the procedure for passport transaction displayed on said display unit;

a sign input unit for inputting a sign of the applicant; and

a control unit for transmitting the data inputted by each of said input units and the identification data of the applicant fetched using said communication unit to said center by using said communication unit and ~~penetrates~~ <sup>orchestrates</sup> said center so as to determine whether the passport is to be issued or not based on the transmitted data.

3. A passport transaction apparatus connected to a center which provides the data for issuance of a certificate for an applicant and executes examination for issuance of passports for processing passport transactions through communication with the center via a communication line, said apparatus comprising:

a communication unit for communicating with said center;

an image input unit for inputting an image of the applicant;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for passport transaction according to the procedure displayed on said display unit;

a printer unit for printing the image inputted by the image input unit and contents of the passport on a passport paper prepared previously;

an issuer unit for issuing a passport obtained by printing with said printer unit; and

a control unit for controlling the communications by said communication unit, image input by said image input unit, display by said display unit, data input by said data input unit and issuance of a passport by said issuer unit;

wherein said control unit sends the data inputted by each of said input units to said center using said communication unit

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and orchestrates said center so as to determine whether the  
passport is to be issued or not, <sup>and</sup> when it is determined that the  
passport is to be issued, makes the printer unit print the image  
of the applicant inputted by said image input unit and contents  
5 of the passport onto a passport paper prepared previously, and  
makes the issuer unit issue the passport obtained by printing.

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4. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 3  
further comprising a passport data input unit for inputting the  
contents of an issued passport as data; wherein said control  
unit orchestrates, when reissuing a passport, said display unit  
and said data input unit so as to amend the data required for  
application of the passport of data inputted from the passport  
data input unit.

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5. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 4;  
wherein said passport data input unit reads the image of an  
issued passport, <sup>and</sup> recognizes the characters in the read image in  
order to input the data.

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6. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 3  
further comprising:

25 a receipt issuer unit for issuing a receipt authorization  
data for checking an applicant when a passport is issued to the  
applicant; and

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a storage unit for storing therein authorization data  
printed on the receipt issued by the receipt issuing unit;  
wherein said control unit determines, when the authorization  
data is inputted by the data input unit, ~~as to~~ whether the applied <sup>for</sup>  
5 passport is to be issued or not by verifying the authorization <sup>for</sup>  
to the storing unit, and when it is determined that the applied <sup>for</sup>  
passport is to be issued, prints the image of the applicant  
inputted by said image input unit and contents of the passport  
on a passport paper previously prepared using the printer unit  
10 and issues the passport obtained by printing using said issuing  
unit.

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7. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 3;  
wherein said image input unit is a digital camera.

8. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 3  
further comprising a voice outputting unit for providing  
guidance for procedure of passport transaction with voice;  
wherein said control unit outputs messages previously prepared  
20 with voice according to progress of procedure of passport  
transaction by controlling said voice outputting unit.

25 9. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 3;  
wherein said display unit is a display unit based on an  
integrated touch panel system.

10. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 3 further comprising:

a direct payment unit for payment of a charge for passport application with cash; wherein said control unit controls input  
5 of cash and change by controlling operations of said direct payment unit.

11. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 3; wherein said communication unit is connected to a center of a  
10 financial institution, said apparatus further comprises an indirect payment unit connected to a center of a financial institution for processing a charge for passport application through communication between said communication unit and said financial institution, and said control unit controls payment  
15 with the financial institution by controlling operations of said indirect payment unit.

12. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 3; wherein said control unit reads out, when issuing a certificate  
20 for an applicant, data for issuing a certification for the applicant from the center with the communication unit, and prints the certificate based on the read-out data using said printing unit.

13. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 3; wherein said data input unit executes data input from a storage medium storing therein data required for passport transaction.

14. A passport transaction apparatus for processing passport transactions with a storage medium which stores the data required for issuance of passports and the data for identifying the applicants for the passports, said apparatus comprising:

an image input unit for inputting an image of the applicant;

a reader unit for reading out the data from said storage medium;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for the passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for passport transactions according to the procedure for passport transaction displayed on said display unit;

a printer unit for printing an image inputted by said image input unit and the contents of the passport onto a passport paper previously prepared;

an issuer unit for issuing a passport obtained by printing with said printing unit;

a control unit for controlling the communications by said communication unit, image input by said image input unit, display by said display unit, reading by said reader unit, data

input by said data input unit and issuance of a passport by the issuing unit;

wherein said control unit determines whether the applied passport is to be issued or not based <sup>on</sup> ~~to~~ the data read out by said reading unit, and when it is determined that the passport is to be issued, prints the image of applicant inputted by said image input unit and <sup>the</sup> contents of the passport <sup>previously</sup> printed onto a passport paper ~~previously prepared~~ using the printing unit and issues the passport obtained by printing using the issuing unit.

15. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 14 further comprising a passport data input unit for inputting the contents of an issued passport as data; wherein said control unit orchestrates, when reissuing a passport, said display unit and said data input unit so as to amend the data required for application of the passport of data inputted from the passport data input unit.

16. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 15; wherein said passport data input unit reads the image of an issued passport <sup>and</sup> recognizes the characters in the read image in order to input the data.

17. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 14 further comprising:



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a receipt issuer unit for issuing a receipt authorization data for checking an applicant when a passport is issued to the applicant; and

a storage unit for storing therein authorization data  
5 printed on the receipt issued by the receipt issuing unit; wherein said control unit determines, when the authorization data is inputted by the data input unit, ~~as to~~ whether the applied <sup>for</sup> passport is to be issued or not by verifying the authorization to the storing unit, and when it is determined that the applied <sup>for</sup> passport is to be issued, prints the image of the applicant inputted by said image input unit and contents of the passport on a passport paper previously prepared using the printer unit and issues the passport obtained by printing using said issuing unit.

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18. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 14; wherein said image input unit is a digital camera.

19. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 14  
20 further comprising a voice outputting unit for providing guidance for procedure of passport transaction with voice; wherein said control unit outputs messages previously prepared with voice according to progress of procedure of passport transaction by controlling said voice outputting unit.

20. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 14; wherein said display unit is a display unit based on an integrated touch panel system.

5 21. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 14 further comprising:

*Handwritten: bills and coins*  
a direct payment unit for payment of a charge for passport application with cash; wherein said control unit controls input of ~~cash and change~~ by controlling operations of said direct  
10 payment unit.

22. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 14; wherein said communication unit is connected to a center of a financial institution, said apparatus further comprises an  
15 indirect payment unit connected to a center of a financial institution for processing a charge for passport application through communication between said communication unit and said financial institution, and said control unit controls payment with the financial institution by controlling operations of  
20 said indirect payment unit.

23. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 14; wherein said control unit reads out, when issuing a certificate for an applicant, data for issuing a certification for the  
25 applicant from the center with the communication unit, and

prints the certificate based on the read-out data using said printing unit.

24. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 14;  
5 wherein said data input unit executes data input from a storage medium storing therein data required for passport transaction.

25. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 14;  
wherein said storage medium is an IC card.

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26. A passport transaction method applicable to a system in which a system is connected via a communication line to a center for providing data for issuance of a certificate to an applicant and executing examination for issuance of a passport for  
15 processing passport transaction by ways of communication with the center, said method comprising:

a first step of inputting data for checking an applicant;

a second step of accessing said center and determining whether the applied passport is to be issued or not by using  
20 the data inputting in the first step;

a third step of inputting, when it is determined in the second step that the applied passport is to be issued, an image of the applicant; and

a fourth step of printing the image of the applicant and  
25 contents of description on the passport inputting in the third

step onto passport paper previously prepared, and issuing the passport obtained by printing.

27. A passport transaction <sup>method</sup> ~~apparatus~~ applicable to a system for processing passport transactions with a storage medium storing therein data required for issuance of passports as well as data for identifying applications for passports comprising:

a first step of reading out data required for issuance of a passport from the storage medium and data for identifying an applicant;

a second step of determining whether the applied <sup>for</sup> passport is to be issued or not according to the data read out in the first step;

a third step of inputting, when it is determined in the second step that the applied <sup>for</sup> passport is to be issued, an image of the applicant; and

a fourth step of printing the image of the applicant and contents of description on the passport inputted in the third step and issuing the passport obtained by printing.

28. A passport transaction system comprising:

a center accessibly connected to a first database storing therein data for issuing certificates to applicants, registering data for issuance of passports in a second database, and executing examination for issuance of passports; and

at least one passport transaction apparatus connected via  
a communication line to said center for processing passport  
~~transaction~~ <sup>transactions</sup> by communicating with said center; wherein said  
passport transaction apparatus comprises

5 a communication unit for communicating with said center;  
an image input unit for inputting an image of the  
applicant for a passport;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure  
for passport transaction;

10 a data input unit for inputting data for passport  
transaction according to the contents of procedure displayed  
on the display unit;

a printer unit for printing the image inputted by the  
image input unit and contents of description on the passport  
15 onto a passport paper previously prepared;

an issuer unit for issuing the passport obtained by  
printing with said printing unit; and

a control unit for controlling the communications by said  
communication unit, image input by said image input unit,  
20 display by said display unit, data input by said data input unit  
and issuance of a passport by said issuer unit; while the control  
unit accesses the center using the communication unit, asks the  
center to make determination as to whether the applied passport  
is to be issued or not according to the data inputted by the  
25 data input unit, and when it is determined that the applied



31. A passport transaction system according to Claim 28;  
wherein said passport transaction apparatus further comprises  
a direct payment unit for processing a charge for passport  
application with cash, and said control unit controls receipt  
5 of <sup>bills and coins</sup> ~~cash and changes~~ by controlling processing by the direct  
payment unit.

32. A passport transaction system according to Claim 28;  
wherein said passport transaction apparatus further comprises  
10 an indirect payment unit connected with the communication unit  
via a communication line to a center of a financial institution  
for processing a charge for passport application through  
communication between the communication unit and the financial  
institution, and the control unit controls procedure for  
15 payment to and from the financial institution by controlling  
the processing by the indirect payment unit.

506A27 33. A passport transaction system comprising:  
a first center having a first database with data required  
20 for issuance of certificates for applicants registered therein;  
a second center for registering data for issuance of  
passports in a second database and also executing examination  
for issuance of passports; and  
at least one passport transaction apparatuses each  
25 connected via a communication line to the first and second

centers for processing passport transaction by communicating with the first and second centers; wherein said passport transaction apparatus comprises:

5 a communication unit for communicating with the first and second centers;

an image input unit for inputting an image of an applicant for a passport;

a display unit for providing guidance with displays of contents of procedure for passport transaction;

10 a data input unit for inputting data for passport transaction according to the contents of procedure displayed on the display unit;

15 a printing unit for printing the image inputted by the image input unit and contents of description of the passport onto passport paper previously prepared;

an issuing unit for issuing a passport obtained by printing with the printing unit; and

20 a control unit for providing controls over communication by the communication unit, image input by the image input unit, displays by the display unit, data input by the data input unit, and issuance of passports by the issuing unit; while the control unit accesses the first and second centers respectively using the communication unit, verifies an applicant for a passport according to the data inputted with the data input unit, makes  
25 determination as to whether an applied passport is to be issued



or not, and when it is determined that the applied passport is to be issued, has the image of the applicant inputted by the image input unit and contents of description on the passport printed with the printing unit onto passport paper previously prepared and also has the passport obtained by printing issued with the issuing unit;

the first center verifies the data inputted by the data input unit according to a request for verification of an applicant for a passport from the passport transaction apparatus to the first database by way of communication with the communication unit and returns a replay according to a result of verification as to whether the applicant is true or not; and

the second center verifies the data inputted by the data input unit according to a request from the passport transaction apparatus by way of communicating with the communication unit to the second database and returns a replay according to a result of verification as to whether the applied passport is to be issued or not.

34. A passport transaction system according to Claim 33; wherein said image input unit and communication unit are connected to each other, and said control unit transfers the image inputted by the image input unit via said communication unit to the center.

35. A passport transaction apparatus according to Claim 33;  
wherein said passport transaction apparatus further comprises  
an voice input unit for inputting a voice and a voice outputting  
unit for outputting a voice, and said communication unit  
5 transfers the voice inputted with the voice input unit to the  
center and also outputs the voice transferred from the center  
to the voice outputting unit.

36. A passport transaction system according to Claim 33;  
10 wherein said passport transaction apparatus further comprises  
a direct payment unit for processing a charge for passport  
application with cash, and said control unit controls receipt  
of ~~cash~~ <sup>bills and coins</sup> and changes by controlling processing by the direct  
payment unit.

37. A passport transaction system according to Claim 33;  
wherein said passport transaction apparatus further comprises  
an indirect payment unit connected with the communication unit  
via a communication line to a center of a financial institution  
20 for processing a charge for passport application through  
communication between the communication unit and the financial  
institution, and the control unit controls procedure for  
payment to and from the financial institution by controlling  
the processing by the indirect payment unit.